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09/726,801

Response Under 37 CFR §1.116

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9-11, 15-20, and 22-27 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 15, 16, 19, and 22 are currently amended. Claims 4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, and 21 are cancelled.

The Office Action objects to claims 8, 14, 21-25 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowance of these claims. In accordance with the examiner's suggestion, the limitations of claim 8 and intervening claims 4 and 6 have been incorporated into their base claim 1, which is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 4, 6, and 8 are subsequently cancelled, and claims 2, 5 and 7 are amended to maintain a proper antecedent basis with amended claim 1.

Similarly, all the limitations of claim 14 and intervening claims 12 and 13 have been incorporated into their base claim 11. Claims 12-14 are subsequently cancelled and claims 15, 16, and 19 are amended to maintain a proper antecedent basis with amended claim 11.

Also, all the limitations of claim 21, which is now cancelled, are incorporated into its base claim 20. Claim 22 is amended to maintain a proper antecedent basis with amended claim 20.

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This Amendment After Final Rejection is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,



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